

## Checklist for Copyright Duration

### Copyright in the United States

- Does the work have a copyright notice (©, Copyright, Copyr.)?
- Is a name associated with this copyright?
- Is there a copyright registration in the U.S. Copyright Office?
- Was copyright in the work renewed?
- What year was the work published?

### Important Dates for Copyright Terms

- Before 1923 = public domain
- Between 1923-1963 = check for renewal
- 1964-1977 = check for copyright notice
- Created before 1978, but not published or subsequently published after 1/1/1978 = copyright is life of author + 70 years
- After 1978 = copyright is life of author + 70 years
- Corporate works and works for hire after 1978 = 95 years after first publication or 120 years after creation, whichever is shorter

### Questions to Keep in Mind for Works Published Outside of the United States

- Was the work published outside of the United States before 7/1/1909?
- Was the work published with a copyright notice between 1909-1922?
- Was the work published outside of the United States between 1909-1977 without a copyright notice?
- Was the work published outside of the United States, 1978 or later?

# Copyright Registrations, Renewals, and Recorded Documents

For Works by U.S. Authors and First Published in the U.S.

## Filed 1978 to present

- U.S. Copyright Office Public Catalog: <http://cocatalog.loc.gov/>

## Filed 1923-1978 to present

- Catalog of Copyright Entries (1906-1978) and Catalogue of Title Entries (1891-1906)
  - Internet Archive: <http://www.archive.org/details/copyrightrecords/>
  - HathiTrust: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003910311>
  - Google Books: <https://books.google.com/googlebooks/copyrightsearch.html>
  - Stanford Copyright Renewals Database (books):  
<https://collections.stanford.edu/copyrightrenewals/bin/page?forward=home>
- Pay attention to type of work (book, periodical, music, motion picture)
- Registrations and renewals are in different sections
- Check year of publication plus 27, 28, and 29 years (if book published in 1930, check 1957, 1958, and 1959)

## Works published 1870-1977

- Copyright Card Catalog (Circular 23): <http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ23.pdf>
- Digitization in progress: <http://www.copyright.gov/digitization/>

## Further Reading

- U.S. Copyright Office Circular 22: <http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ22.pdf>
- Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition:  
<http://www.copyright.gov/comp3/comp-index.html>
- Samuel Demas & Jennie L. Brogdon, *Determining Copyright Status for Preservation and Access*, 41 Library Resources & Technical Services 323 (1997),  
<https://journals.ala.org/lrts/article/download/5428/6664>